



GALLERY NEWS

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON
GALLERY OF ART
MARY ATKINS MUSEUM
OF FINE ARTS

Rockhill Road at Forty-fifth Street
Kansas City, Missouri

Open week days 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Free Days—Saturday, Sunday, Pub-
lic Holidays and Wednesday Even-
ings, October thru May, Sunday and
Holiday Hours—2 p. m. to 6 p. m.

Closed:
All Mondays
New Years, July 4th
Thanksgiving and Christmas



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November

1941

LOAN EXHIBITIONS:

PAINTINGS BY GEORGE BIDDLE: For the month of November, the central loan gallery will be hung with a group of some twenty oils and a series of watercolours by the American artist, George Biddle. With the exception of one canvas exhibited at the opening of the Gallery in 1933, the work of Biddle has not been seen in Kansas City.

George Biddle was born in Philadelphia in 1885, a member of the well-known family of that city. He was educated at Groton and Harvard where he took his law degree. He was almost twenty-seven before he took up painting and most of his training was in Paris and Munich. Here he spent his time in the great museums, influenced by and copying the old masters. He writes of these years, "I gobbled up museums, French impressionism, cubism, futurism, the Old Masters. I copied Velazquez in Madrid and Rubens in Munich."

Two years were spent in service in the World War and with the signing of peace, although he was thirty-four, he felt he was still a student and returned to France. Later came two years in the South Sea Islands and another period in Paris. A dissatisfaction with his work there and a feeling that he was out of place caused him to return to America in 1922.

In his autobiography, "An American Artist's Story", published in 1939, he expresses many of his beliefs and his personal point of view of art. He feels that the depression did much to crystalize the thought of American artists: "We painters did some sober thinking during those days. We had never been completely witless or even dullards. But somehow we had missed the simple truth that by facing life we would achieve maturity." In this same book he sums up his philosophy: "The artist should not desensitize his aptitude for living by a refusal to take the mental consequence of envisaging a better and happier world than that we live in. Life in America is

often colourless and drab; often without design or texture. It can be beautiful and ignorant and cruel. It can be beautiful."

It was Biddle who, in a letter to President Roosevelt, first suggested federal aid to the arts and it was from this appeal that the Federal Art Program was developed. Through this project he was later commissioned to paint a fresco for the Department of Justice Building in Washington. His brother, Francis Biddle, who was recently appointed Attorney General of the United States, posed for one of the central figures. Examples of the artist's work are in most of the public collections of America, including the Metropolitan, the Whitney Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, Chicago Art Institute, Pennsylvania Museum, Boston Museum of Fine Arts and many others. Biddle is married to Helene Sardeau, the sculptor, and is living in southern California.

Included in the exhibition are several portraits of his wife, one of their son Michael and one of Frieda Lawrence. Views of rural America, still lifes and animal paintings will also be shown.

The exhibition will open on Sunday, November 9th and will continue through the month. It is being shown in Kansas City through the courtesy of the Frank Perls Gallery of Hollywood and the American Associated Artists of New York.

JOINT PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION: Two local camera clubs, the Camera Pictorialists and the Kansas City Camera Club will hold a joint exhibition in the north and south loan galleries for the month of November. To increase the interest in photography for that period, the Gallery will allow cameras to be brought into the building and used. This should afford an opportunity for candid camera enthusiasts to get many a fine and interesting shot.

The work of Kansas City photographers is well known and many of the men exhibit in all national shows. The subject matter of the present exhibition is especially diverse and will appeal to all tastes as there are architectural studies, landscapes, portraits, human

interest shots, flower arrangements and agricultural studies. Highlights of interest in this year's show include "Departure", by Gene Allen, a contemporary comment on soldiers in Union Station; "Kid Stuff" by J. C. Turney, an apprehensive youngster with his fingers stuck into the mouth of a young goat; superb Indian Portraits from New Mexico by Henry P. Clark; an animated baby portrait by A. J. Seaver; a Rembrandt theme modernized into "Anatomy Class" by Richard Bulkeley; a sense of humor in the trash-strewn highway of W. R. Crick, entitled "Travel the Scenic Route"; an effective grouping of the hands of a child and of an old woman in "Grandma" by Sam Burg and a beautiful colour study of Gladioli by L. G. Fayman.

The photographers exhibiting in the group include: Gene Allen, Glen H. Broyles, Richard Bulkeley, Sam Burg, H. Chamberlin, D. D. Clark, Henry P. Clark, James Copas, W. R. Crick, Crooks-Greenen, E. M. Dodds, J. W. DuVall, L. G. Fayman, Frank P. Fern, C. I. Graham, Howard Harvey, Ray Hatchett, Phil Hayes, Nels Icaacson, Robert Keith, MacLay Lyons, A. J. Martin, D. M. McGlashon, Louise Murphy, Gaines Neal, Joe Norton, Brooks C. Noah, Dr. Nels F. Ockerblad, Luke Roberts, Don Sanders, Glen Scheufele, A. J. Seaver, W. M. Slaughter, M. Stone, M. J. Thurman, J. C. Turney.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: The two superb Chinese Bronzes which were exhibited for the first time last month, will continue on display in Gallery 14. They have been accorded most complimentary comment, not only by Kansas City enthusiasts but also by such experts as Alfred F. Pillsbury of Minneapolis, one of the outstanding collectors of Chinese Bronzes in America, and by Howard C. Hollis, Curator of Oriental Art of the Cleveland Museum. At the end of the month they will be placed on display in the Chinese Bronze Gallery on the second floor.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series on Oriental Art is proving most popular. An enthusiastic audience of almost five hundred attended the first lecture and all outlines were sold. Many nearby institutions including the Art Institute, Park College and Teachers College are offering the course for credit. All lectures are given by Laurence Sickman, Curator of the Department and are held at 8:00 P.M. in Atkins Auditorium. There is no

admission charge to the Gallery or to the lectures.

November 5: The Age of Philosophers. This lecture will cover the brilliant centuries when Confucius, Lao Tzu & a host of other philosophers were each offering his solution to the troubles of a war-torn world. The break-up of the Chou dynasty feudal system was marked by religious scepticism and political strife. China was divided into a number of small, contending kingdoms, rivalling one another in the splendor of their courts. With such patronage, the arts attained an elaboration and luxury far beyond anything known in earlier ages.

November 12: The Han Dynasty. This was the great period of Chinese expansion. Under the victorious banners of the Han, Chinese culture spread far to the south, northward into the Korean peninsula, and far across Central Asia to bring as tribute the famous horses of Ferghana to the Han court. With the widening of the Chinese horizon, numerous foreign influences are apparent in rich and varied art forms. The potter's art begins to rise to the peak of world superiority that has never been challenged. This lecture will cover the arts of pottery, textiles, lacquer ware and works in bronze, gold and jade during the 400 years of Han rule.

November 19: There will be NO LECTURE on this date but the Gallery will be open and a concert will be given in the Auditorium at 8:00 P.M. by Mrs. Hobart Lutz and the a cappella choir of the National Training School for Christian Workers.

November 26: Sculpture and Painting of the Han Dynasty will be considered in the light of most recent finds & the important material in the Gallery collection. The earliest surviving paintings of China date from this time and they reveal an art of lively narrative scenes, portraiture and the beginnings of landscape. Both sculpture and painting draw their themes from a wonderfully elaborate folklore and mythology that first appear during these centuries.

BURNAP COLLECTION OF ENGLISH POTTERY: The second group in the chronological survey of the Burnap Collection of

English Pottery will be installed for the months of November and December. This will include the beautiful Agate Ware of 1730-1760, with its variegated tones of green, blue, gray, cream & brown. A wide variety of shapes is seen in this ware, teapots, cups & saucers, jugs, coffee pots, figures, cats and other animals. Outstanding in this group is the unique 12-inch Plate of 1746 from the famous Revelstoke Collection, the only known dated piece of solid agate ware. Very rare also is a pair of Hawks, standing 11 inches high and dating about 1750.

To many, the most delightful of all English Potteries are the charming Astbury figures of the middle of the 18th Century. The Burnap Collection is especially rich in this field and includes many figures of musicians, fine ladies, cobblers and other tradesmen. Especially fine here are a figure of Dr. Henry Sacheverell, a superb Mounted Soldier and two Arbour Groups. Two figures, of a man and of a woman, 16 and 17 inches high and formerly in the Micah Salt Collection, are the largest Astbury figures known. The group also includes tea & coffee pots & jugs.

Whieldon Ware is a generic term which covers pottery made and influenced by Thomas Whieldon (1740-1780). Usually the cream ground is splashed with blue, green, brown and yellow and all sorts of forms are used - animals, tea pots, jugs, plates, even figures. The Burnap Collection includes 87 pieces of this ware and outstanding in interest and importance are two equestrian figures, a man and woman. These are impressed with WEDGWOOD and dated 1748 and no doubt are from the period when Josiah Wedgwood was employed by Whieldon and before he established his own more famous pottery. The majority of these pieces now on display are being seen for the first time and afford a rare opportunity to study the advances made in English Pottery in the middle of the eighteenth century.

FRIENDS OF ART: The choice of Thursday mornings for the special lectures for members is meeting with universal approval. On Thursday, November 6th, at 11:00 A.M. in the Library, the Director will discuss the George Biddle paintings with the members. Many of the examples in the exhibition will be brought to the Library for examination.

The attention of members is again called to the Annual Meeting which will be held Friday Evening, December 5th at 8:00 P.M. in the Mezzanine Tea Room. At this time the painting to be purchased and presented to the Gallery will be chosen.

The Board of Governors announce that for the coming year, the ART DIGEST has been chosen as the magazine to be sent free of charge to all Friends of Art. As dues are paid, the subscriptions to this magazine will be placed. Through a special arrangement with the American Federation of Arts, members of the Friends of Art may individually renew their subscriptions to MAGAZINE OF ART for the reduced price of \$3.50. The Gallery will be glad to take care of these renewals for members.

Membership in the Friends of Art is again called to the attention of all Gallery visitors. Information on this most valuable program to build up a fine group of Contemporary American Painting for the Gallery can be obtained from the membership secretary, Mrs. H. V. Jones, Hl. 0772.

GALLERY NEWS: The Director lectured to the Membership group of the Minneapolis Institute of Art on October 14th. His subject was "How Art Came to Kansas City".

Visitors to the Gallery this month include Calvin S. Hathaway, Associate Curator of the Cooper Union Museum; Howard C. Hollis, Curator of Oriental Art of the Cleveland Museum; Will Ashton, Director of the National Gallery of New South Wales, Sidney, Australia; and Charles F. Kelley, Assistant Director and Curator of Oriental Art of the Chicago Art Institute.

On Thursday afternoons from two until five o'clock, the Gallery Library will be open to the public. Students who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to study here will find a staff member on hand to assist them in selecting material for study.

The Gallery will be closed all day Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 20th.

We wish to call the attention of the Gallery visitors the fact that the provisions of the Revenue Act of 1941 require us to collect a 3-cent tax on all \$.25 admissions and a one-cent tax on all \$.10 admissions, effective October 1, 1941. According to governmental instructions, this tax applies to persons admitted free on passes and all visitors using the official Gallery pass, the Kansas City Art Institute Pass and the Friends of Art Pass must also pay the 3-cent tax.

THE SILVERSMITH'S CRAFT: A most interesting exhibition of the making of silver, circulated by Reed & Barton, will be shown in the Little Museum for the month of November. Through photographs, drawings and actual objects, the mysterious and fascinating craft of how silver is made will be illustrated. The exhibition will be augmented with American and English silver from the permanent collection, with attention called to their distinguishing hall marks. The Staff will be glad to arrange lectures for special groups who may be interested in studying this educational and informative exhibition.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: The free Saturday afternoon programs for children during November will consist of three motion pictures and a marionette play as listed in the Calendar. Further chapters of the serial, "Custer's Last Stand" will be included whenever a movie is scheduled.

There will be no Saturday morning classes, game tray or afternoon program on November 22nd, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|----|---|-------|---|---|
| Sat., | Nov. | 1 | - | 3:00 | - | Auditorium - Movies, "Italy" and "Venice the Magnificent" |
| Sun., | " | 2 | - | 3:30 | - | Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Van Duzee |
| Mon., | " | 3 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Institute Class, Oriental Art |
| Tues., | " | 4 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst. Class, Renaissance Art. |
| " | " | 4 | - | 1:00 | - | Room B - Bancroft Club. |
| " | " | 4 | - | 2:00 | - | Asiatic Study Group |
| Wed., | " | 5 | - | 8:00 | - | Lecture - The Age of Philosophers, Mr. Sickman. |
| Thurs., | " | 6 | - | 11:00 | - | Library - Friends of Art |
| " | " | 6 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art. |
| Sat., | " | 8 | - | 3:00 | - | Picture Show - "China" and "Spirit of Sho-Gun (Japan)" |
| Sun., | " | 9 | - | 3:30 | - | Concert - Catherine Spalding |
| Mon., | " | 10 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Orient. Art. |
| Tues., | " | 11 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Book Club. |
| " | " | 11 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Study Club |
| " | " | 11 | - | 1:00 | - | Study Room - Art Inst. Ren. Art. |
| Wed., | " | 12 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Minerva Delphians |
| " | " | 12 | - | 8:00 | - | Lecture - The Han Dynasty, Mr. Sickman |
| Thurs., | " | 13 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Socratic Delphians |
| " | " | 13 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art. |
| " | " | 13 | - | 2:30 | - | Library - Teachers College |
| Sat., | " | 15 | - | 3:00 | - | Marionette Play - Phaeton and Apollo. |
| Sun., | " | 16 | - | 3:30 | - | Concert - Conservatory of Music |
| Mon., | " | 17 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Orient. Art |
| Tues., | " | 18 | - | 2:00 | - | Asiatic Study Group |
| Wed., | " | 19 | - | 8:00 | - | Concert - Mrs. Hobart Lutz and choir |
| Thurs., | " | 20 | - | | - | THANKSGIVING - Gallery Closed All Day. |
| Sat., | " | 22 | - | | - | No Children's activities. |
| Sun., | " | 23 | - | 3:30 | - | Concert - Mrs. Hunt & Mrs. Forsythe |
| Mon., | " | 24 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Orient. Art |
| Tues., | " | 25 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Book Club |
| " | " | 25 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art. |
| Wed., | " | 26 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Minerva Delphians |
| " | " | 26 | - | 8:00 | - | Lecture - Sculpture and Painting of the Han Dynasty - Mr. Sickman |
| Thur. | " | 27 | - | 10:00 | - | Library - Socratic Delphians |
| " | " | 27 | - | 1:00 | - | Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art. |
| Sat. | " | 29 | - | 3:00 | - | Picture Show - Colonial America |
| Sun., | " | 30 | - | 3:30 | - | Concert - Stephens College |

**William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art
Atkins Museum of Fine Arts
Kansas City, Mo.**

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Baltimore Museum of Art
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